



TIP OF THE SPEAR

MARINES TO SET SAIL AROUND SOUTH AMERICA



Marines will help test a new Navy amphibious assault ship's capabilities on its maiden transit from the ship yard in Mississippi to its new home in the Pacific, making several stops throughout South America to engage with military partners. The Marines will form Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Southern Command (SPMAGTF-SOUTH), and will sail aboard the precommissioned amphibious assault ship America. The first of the America-class ships will head from the shipyard in Pascagoula, Miss., to California to join the Pacific Fleet. "We're going to embark a SPMAGTF, with some [MV-22 Ospreys] and Marines, and go

around South America and do some engagement work with our regular enduring partners and kind of show off what we've got here," said Brig. Gen. David Coffman, commander of Marine Corps Forces South. SPMAGTF-SOUTH will comprise about 250 Marines who will join a crew of 1,100 Sailors for the transit. They're expected to depart around July and the full trip will take about two months. [Read more](#)



PHOTO OF THE WEEK



U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Chester Nez receives an American flag from Pfc. Tiffany Boyd, at Code Talker Hall, Marine Corps Base Quantico, Va., April 4. The flag was flown over the Marine Corps War Memorial, on the first day of spring in honor of Cpl. Nez's attendance at the Platoon 382 Hall rededication. Cpl. Nez is the last of the original 29 Navajo Code Talkers of World War II. *(Photo by Cpl. Kathryn K. Bynum)*



IN THE NEWS

BARRETT: FISCAL DISCIPLINE GOOD FOR BOTH CORPS AND MARINES



Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps, Sgt. Maj. Micheal Barrett recently spoke about the necessity, in a time of fiscal uncertainty, for Marines to exercise discipline in their own financial decisions. "[It's about] better spending habits in general...Not spending beyond your means. [Those in need] should go to see their command financial specialist and, [say], 'Here is how much money I have. Here are my wants, and here's my needs. As soon as I get my paycheck how much should I put away?' That's what it's about," Barrett said. Marines are known for their discipline in training and combat, and can exercise the same value fiscally. [Read more](#)

Also Read: SMMC Letter to Marines

MARINE CORPS TO STAND UP CRISIS RESPONSE UNIT IN CENTCOM IN 2015



The Marine Corps will form Special-Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force Central Command (SPMAGTF-CENT) during fiscal year 2015. About 1,900 Marines and Sailors comprise the unit, which will be land-based in the Middle East, but the exact location is still being determined. "The [Marine Corps] intends to source and deploy SPMAGTF-CENT, which consists of a command element, ground combat element, aviation combat element and logistics combat element providing Central Command with a flexible, self-deploying and self-sustaining option for responding to these emergent threats," said Lt. Col. Joe Kloppel, a spokesman with Marine Corps

MARINES, ARMY TAKE BRUNT OF WAR WOUNDS



Soldiers and Marines faced most of the combat in Iraq and Afghanistan and came home with more war wounds than others. Overall, more than half of the military service members who fought in Iraq and Afghanistan since 2001 returned from war in worse physical or mental health. Fifty-two percent of soldiers reported worse physical health since the wars, with the Marines, Navy and Air Force each falling below 40 percent. An equal number of soldiers and Marines (39 percent each) reported worse mental and emotional health, far higher than the rates in the Navy (20 percent) or Air Force (16 percent). Roughly eight in 10 Marine veterans served

on the ground in either country. [Read more](#)

Also Read: The Other Wounds

NETWORKING ON-THE-MOVE GOES AFLOAT



Networking On-the-Move (NOTM), a robust mobile command-and-control capability will now be integrated onto the Assault Amphibious Vehicle (AAV) platform. NOTM is an evolutionary system, based upon the capabilities of the Mobile Modular Command and Control systems successfully employed in Afghanistan since 2009. Now -- after successfully completing more than seven weeks of rigorous amphibious testing conducted at Camp Pendleton, Calif., by the Marine Corps Tactical Systems Support Activity and Amphibious Vehicle Test Branch -- NOTM is destined for fielding on the AAV. [Read more](#)

CORPS TO ENSURE ALL BASES HAVE SAME FIREARM

POLICIES



In an effort to ensure that commanders are enforcing the same rules regarding privately owned firearms on base, the Marine Corps has issued new guidance to standardize policies across the entire service. The message, which comes from Gen. John Paxton, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, does not revise or augment existing Marine orders or Defense Department policies, but it does require installation commanders to review and update their local directives governing personal firearms to ensure they are uniform across the service. "We've had those standards in place for some time and this is reinforcement of those standards," said Rex

Runyon, a Marine Corps Installations Command spokesman. "One of the purposes of this is to clarify any uncertainties that may come up in existing orders." [Read more](#)



THIS WEEK IN HISTORY

APRIL 12-13, 1918

Marines of the 4th Brigade suffered their first gas attack on the night and early morning hours of 12-13 April when the Germans bombarded the 74th Company, 6th Marines near Verdun with mustard gas. Nine Marine officers and 305 enlisted Marines were gassed and evacuated, and 30 Marines died from the effects of the gas shells which hit in the middle of the reserve area cantonments in which they were sleeping.



MARINE OF THE WEEK

MARINE AWARDED FOR ACT OF COURAGE



Sgt. Stephen Lowe was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for his heroic actions while on Marine security guard duty at the U.S. Consulate in Lagos, Nigeria, April 28, 2013. While on a beach, Lowe noticed a married couple in distress due to strong rip currents and ran into the ocean, swimming through numerous rip currents and vicious waves up to six feet tall to bring the victims safely back to shore. In route, he observed a third victim caught in the rip currents who had attempted to rescue the couple, and went back to rescue him. Lowe and his comrades began CPR on one of the victims who had ceased breathing, and he continued to perform life-saving

techniques for nearly two hours until medical help could be reached. Two lives were saved that day, but unfortunately one was not. However, every action was taken to make sure that the casualty had a fighting chance. [Read more](#)



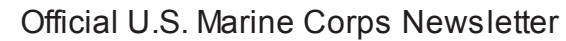
THE CORPS REPORT



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OUR MISSION

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